



## Calendar of Events 2011

'Special' Friends Events in Bold

### SEPTEMBER

**Tuesday 13 Evening Talk - 7 for 7.30pm**  
by Janet Bradshaw: 'Nine Lives at Tatton'.

Thursday 22 Film Night - 7 for 7.30pm  
'Brighton Rock'

Wednesday 28 Tea and Talk – Talk starts 3pm.  
'John Gerard and his Herbal' talk by Sue Hughes  
on Cheshire's Elizabethan Gardener.

**Thursday 29 Launch of New Exhibition**  
**'The Curious World of Professor Josiah Mace'**  
**7 for 7.30pm especially for Friends.**

### OCTOBER

**Thursday 20 - Friends' AGM - 7 for 7.30pm**  
**followed by Evening Talk 'Salt Routes'**  
**by Anthony Poulton-Smith.**  
**His books will be available for sale.**

Wednesday 26 Tea and Talk – Talk starts 3pm  
'The Habitats of Cheshire'  
talk by Dr Kathryn Riddington

Thursday 27 Film Night - 7 for 7.30pm  
'Another Year'

### NOVEMBER

**Wednesday 16 Evening Talk – 7 for 7.30pm**  
**by Michael Lea-O'Mahoney:**  
**'Cheshire's Civil War'**

Thursday 24 Film Night - 7 for 7.30pm  
'Water for Elephants'

Wednesday 30 Tea and Talk - Talk starts 3pm  
'The Cheshire Prophet' by Tom Hughes on the  
strange tale of Robert Nixon.

### DECEMBER

**Thursday 8 – Friends' Festive Tudor Evening,**  
**with mulled wine and mince pies and various**  
**activities! 7 for 7.30pm.**

## New Exhibition. 'The Curious World of Professor Josiah Mace'.

What on earth have the Museum  
got in store for us?



Professor Mace's travelling show and collection of curiosities has been enthralling visitors around the area recently, but Weaver Hall Museum are very pleased to be hosting the first full scale exhibition revealing the adventurer's exploits. Along with the artefacts and specimens on show will be a film specially created by the museum revealing some of the more "intriguing" tales from Professor Mace's expeditions.

*Don't miss the Launch of this special exhibition only for Friends on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011, 7pm for 7.30pm.*

## Please. Please. Please.

If you want **us** to keep **you** up to date, then let our Membership Secretary, Mary Curry, know your **new** email address.

Just email her at [mliz.curry@btinternet.com](mailto:mliz.curry@btinternet.com)

## You Surely Didn't Miss These Events?

### Salt, Slavery and Cheshire.



Mark Bevan, left, local author and historian, seen here with Tom Hughes, gave us a thought-provoking talk on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May about the influence and effects of international trade. He started his talk with pictures of some of the grand historic houses in the Cheshire area. His premise was that all the wealthy traders originally made their money from the three way trade of salt to Africa, slaves to America and goods we needed, such as cotton and sugar, back to Liverpool. He stated that all trading consisted of very complicated links, and therefore, all great wealth undoubtedly must have included slavery at some point in the mists of time.



### Blackden Trust Visits

We had the delight of the author, Alan Garner, OBE and winner of many distinguished literary prizes and awards, himself, showing us around his home and the Medicine House. Alan stood up to introduce himself and his wife, Griselda, and explain how they came to be living there, and we were all spellbound within two minutes! It is from this amazing site that he has had his inspirations for his books such as *The Weirdstone of Brisingamen*, *The Moon of Gomerath*, *The Owl Service* which was made into a TV series, and many others.

### Cheshire Churches and Minstrels.

Tom Hughes kindly stepped into the breach for a speaker unable to attend on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June. He talked about the history of the Minstrel's Court, which was a tradition from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, that has been revived. This Minstrels Court now takes place in St John the Baptist's Church in Chester, usually in mid June. It was traditionally how medieval musicians, storytellers and performers got their

licenses to perform.

Tom linked this to icons of minstrels to be found in several churches in the area.

As he showed a photograph of each icon from a local church, he was able to produce a replica instrument and give us a superb musical demonstration as to how they worked and sounded.



### Norton Priory Visit.

We had an excellent guided tour around the gardens and priory ruins. We were given the history of both the Priory itself and the later house, and shown the various parts of the garden. As you can see, a glorious day and, if I am completely honest, a slightly over-grown garden in places!



*A big 'thank you' to Betty Knight who organised all the trips.*





**Nine Lives.** On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September Janet Bradshaw gave us a fascinating talk about nine different characters to be found on the Tatton Estate throughout its history. Janet dressed up as the characters to bring them alive. She energetically described their daily tasks and who they met along the way. We heard about knights with swords, housemaids, butlers, peasant farmers' wives, a medieval court for poachers and many more 'happenings'. It was a lovely light-hearted, yet informative talk, to start our autumn season.



## ***Forthcoming Events - Not to be Missed!***



### ***Thursday 20 October:***

**AGM of the Friends of Weaver Hall Museum and a talk given by Anthony Poulton-Smith, author of 'Salt Routes'.**

Anthony is a prolific author, having written many books on a range of historical aspects from haunting to derivations of place names. One of his latest books is entitled 'Salt Routes'. Anthony used the Weaver Hall Museum for some of his research for this book, so it should be very interesting to hear him talk. He will have a selection of his books for sale and signing on the night.

### ***Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November: Cheshire's Civil War.***

- a talk by Michael Lea-O'Mahoney  
These pictures show the rivals at the Battle of Nantwich, the Royalist Lord Bryon (left) and Parliamentarian Sir William Brereton (right). Michael will talk about both and Sir Thomas Fairfax in detail when he explains Cheshire's part in the Civil War. He will also include military tactics, key events outside the county and the reasons for war. A fascinating talk to look forward to.



### ***Thursday 8 December : Tudor Yuletide.***



This will be our normal Christmas social with a difference! There will be music, laughter, but no dancing! The mulled wine will help us to join in the planned activities - games of ninepins, a mummer's play, making scented pomander bags and much more!





## Museum News.

As you will have read in the local newspaper and on our website, 'Congratulations' must go to all the Weaver Hall Museum and Workhouse staff. The Friends already knew it, but the museum is officially recognised again by Visit England, the tourism authority, as a first class venue.

The Weaver Hall Museum has been rewarded with another Rosette from the Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme (VAQAS) at Visit England.



The Museum was judged to be of a 'high standard', with a 'fresh appeal' and a 'huge asset'. Even more impressive and I quote 'standards of presentation and interpretation are very high indeed - certainly comparable with the metropolitan museums of the north west'. A well-deserved accolade, I am sure you will agree.

## Film Club in the 'Regalette'.

As regular filmgoers to the 'Regalette' already know, the Friends committee has taken a more positive involvement in the organisation and choice of films. With Matt leaving, and rather stringent cuts to all public services, the museum staff were finding it difficult to sustain the workload of finding suitable films, organising licenses and selling tickets. As a committee we felt the Film Club was a very valuable asset to the museum and so have agreed to offer more help. You too could make suggestions! Angela Jones from our committee is ready to listen to any suggestions for films you would really like to see, any offers of help to pour the wine and sell the tickets. It has been agreed to sell tickets for the next film on a film night to ease the burden upon museum staff. You will have already seen this in action. I do hope you are all happy with this solution, as we did not want to see our 'film nights' disappear.



Brighton Rock  
Thursday 22 September



Another Year  
Thursday 27 October



Water for Elephants  
Thursday 24 November.

## The Future.

Sue Hughes, Museum Director, has been keeping the committee up to date with the progress of the appointment of a **Keeper of Social and Community History**, to be based in Weaver Hall Museum. It has progressed through a number of management team committees and has been approved by the Corporate Management Team. Watch this Space!

Sadly we have to say 'goodbye' to **Diane Crimes**, in the office, who is taking up an appointment as a bursar in a school. We wish her the very best of luck and thank her for all the efforts she has made for the museum and for the Friends.

We would like to welcome **Mel Williamson** as a new Visitor Assistant to replace Janet.

**I do hope you will all keep supporting the museum, to keep it a vibrant, interesting place.**

